

SIMPLY SOCCER

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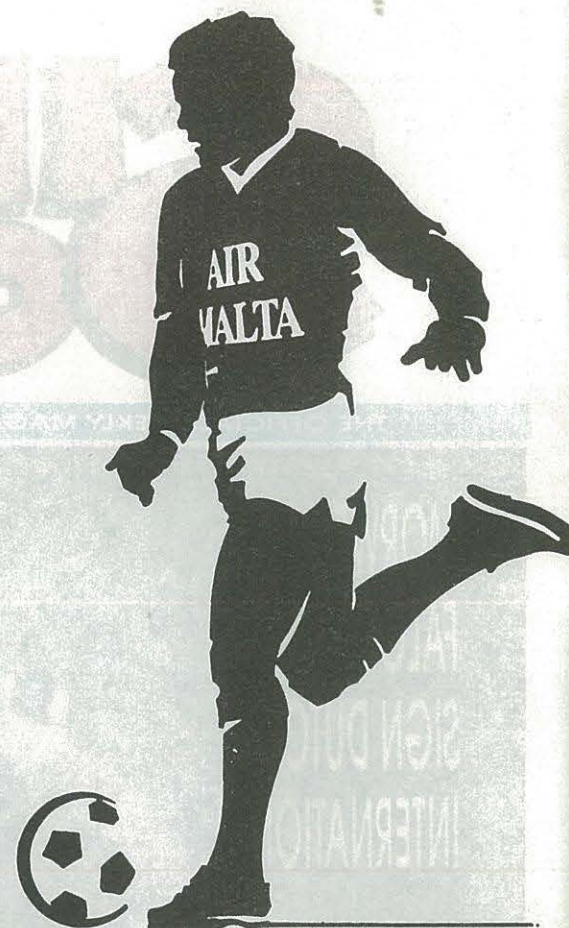
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THOSE EVER PRESENT THORNS

They say that any publicity is good publicity; that even controversy hitting the headlines is good for soccer. Well, that has certainly been put to the test with the acrimony between coach Eddie Thomson and striker Davie Mitchell which has spilled over via the newspapers, radio and even TV. Is it bad for the game that two such prominent figures have gone public over their disagreement? Should they have in fact kept their private thoughts just that?

Another thought; will there not always be disagreement between a coach and his players?

One factor in the issue hasn't even been given consideration when the sides have been drawn up favouring either Mitch or Thommo — the media.

It is surely the job and responsibility of the media to report on all aspects of the sport. It would be a poor journalist who did not realise that Davie Mitchell would be unhappy about sitting on the bench. Mitchell had flown halfway around the world to play for his country, not keep the splinters company.

The press sought out a good story and reported on it. As a result soccer was kept in the spotlight for another week, along with all the other good positive stories like the brilliance of Robbie Slater and Paul Wade being given one of Maradona's shirts.

Another old thorn which like a row between player and coach will always keep appearing is the performance of referees.

Even at this early stages the standard of refereeing in the CCSL has come under the spotlight. It would be naive to think that referees are always going to be doubted, that their role as the policemen of the game is always going to be criticised — no matter how good or bad their performance.

That isn't true.

All last week there was nothing but unstinting praise for Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl who had such a good ninety three minutes in the crucial World Cup showdown at the Sydney Football Stadium. Puhl was fair, consistent and always up with the play which he controlled with a free flowing interpretation of the laws.

In short, he was just great.

That will beg the question as to why our own CCSL referees don't always receive that sort of praise. But the simple fact is that the general standard of refereeing in the CCSL has slipped alarmingly backwards.

Not all of our referees fall short of the required standard but there are just too many incidents which ruin a game for players and spectators alike to feel any complacency.

So far this season we have seen a player sent off when he perhaps shouldn't, we have seen a blatant foul in the box which should have resulted in a penalty and the offending goalkeeper under the early shower, and a myriad of yellow cards that never were.

And we are only up to Round 3!

But the good news is that National Director of Referees Gary Power is well aware of the situation and has already taken hard measures to correct it.

Good on you Gary, it might be an old thorn but it's nice to know that someone is prepared to treat it.



the battle of RIVER PLATE



by
Bruce Campbell

Next Thursday morning Australian time the Coca-Cola Socceroos line up against the might of Argentina in the footballing version of the Battle of the River Plate.

But this time there is a difference - Argentina aren't neutral, they are our protagonists in a battle to decide which country will go to USA for the 1994 World Cup finals.

And make no mistake Thommo's Tornados have a very good chance of turning the soccer world on its backside and putting the twice world champions out.

In the first leg I saw three key areas where Australia had to do well to achieve a good result.

Firstly, there was the obvious threat of Maradona, and Paul Wade and co. handled that task sufficiently well.

Maradona is no longer the great player that he once was, yet in snuffing him out for at least 87 minutes of the game Australia managed to disrupt the flow of the Argies' game.

Secondly, there was the threat of Gabriel Batistuta, but Mehmet Durakovic successfully blotted him out of the entire game.

Thirdly, and just as importantly was how Australia would cope with the first 30 minutes, a period



when they had to settle down their initial nerves and take control of the game.

That they did that is an understatement.

Simply put, Australia had so much control of the game that they shocked every neutral spectator at the Sydney Football Stadium.

But now they have to do it all over again.

A 1-1 aggregate scoreline over the two legs will be enough to secure Argentina a passage to America but there is no way on God's earth that Argentine coach Alfio Basile will allow his team to play for the necessary scoreless draw.

That will allow Australia to push forward for that single

goal which will put them in the driving seat - and this time Frank Farina will take his place in the starting line-up.

"Make no mistake, we are in with a very good chance," said Eddie Thomson after the first leg.

"We have proven that we can mix it with the very best, and do well.

"I believe that we are capable of getting a result in Argentina and I would warn anybody against writing us off. Australia is going to Argentina to qualify for the finals of the World Cup, that is our mission."

And it is also a belief that the players now share.

Maybe there was the odd bit of scepticism before that great first leg in Sydney, after all this was Argentina, not Canada.

But now there is a growing self belief that Australia has arrived on the world stage, no longer are we anyone's punching bag.

Will Australia, achieve the impossible?

Well, that's the \$64 question.

Providing the Aussies can conquer the nerves which will be generated by a huge and hostile crowd I believe that we have the talent to create the chances that we did in Sydney.

If the Australian strikers can overcome their inability to convert those chances into goals, then Australia can achieve the unthinkable.

But this time they must play more possession, they must eliminate a lot of those 50-50 balls that were played in the 1-1 draw.

Then it was a different ball game, we had to take the game to Argentina and the quick build up enabled Australia to hit Argentina with staggering speed.

Now it is different, we must slow it down at the back, maintain possession and frustrate Argentina.

Should we survive the first half an hour then it may be that the war ships of Argentina will be sunk at the Battle of River Plate - Mark II.

The prize is a big one - USA '94.



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BIGGEST MATCH EVER

Arise, SIR PAUL

Wade's performances draw big support for the Aussie skipper to receive an honour for his contribution to sport

The record for most capped Australian of all time is a big deal. In Australian soccer the honours don't come much higher.

And you could be forgiven for thinking that it was something that occupied Paul Wade's mind for so long; a time when he was inching ever so slowly towards Peter Wilson's record of 64 caps.

Wade is open and honest about the subject, refreshingly so in an era when footballers seem to eat the cliché book along with their wheaties.

"I used to think about it a lot," confesses Wade.

"But that was when I was playing regularly!

"But now I would say that all I want to do is to get out onto the park – you can have all the records you like, I just want to play."

After a nightmare spell which coincided with a bout of pneumonia last April Wade might have thought that his time was over, but now he is on top of the perch, sharing that elusive number one spot along with Peter Wilson.

"You never know – he is a Pom!" – coach Eddie Thomson

In two week's time Wadey, one of the most articulate players in the Australian game, has a chance to go one better, for should the big South Melbourne player run out against Argentina then the record will be his.

And that is a record that will stand for a very, very long time.

Any player who wants a tilt

at the crown in future will likely have to be a home based Aussie and also good enough to keep his place against the Europeros.

Wade's change in attitude towards records and honours is something that he sees as a further sign of his maturity as a person and a player.

"That's right, I don't think that you are ever too old to learn.

"In the last six months I've come to realise that footballing is such a short life that you have to go out there and have the best possible time that you can.

"Don't worry about the hang-ups, the possibilities of

things not going right for you."

That is good advice from a man who seemed to have it all in his grasp only for it to be snatched away, and then be presented with a last opportunity to take it again – and Paul Wade did take it again, with both feet.

Wade's performance in man-marking the legendary

Diego Maradona won unstinting praise from Eddie Thomson.

When questioned about the role and the record Thomson was unequivocal in his praise.

"Wade did a great job," said the Aussie boss.

"He is going to beat the record (for Australian caps) in Argentina, there is no way that he won't play over there."

But Thomson stops one short of supporting claims for a knighthood for his captain.

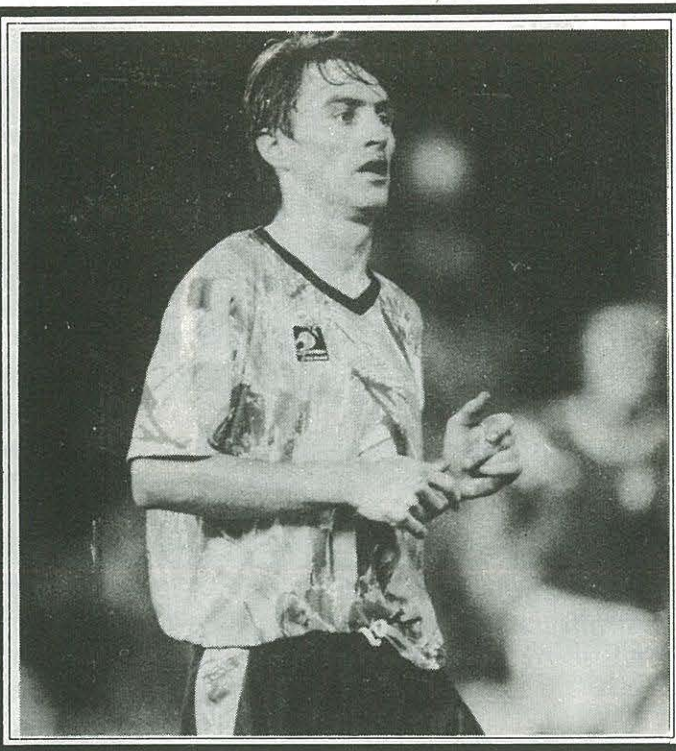
"Sir Paul," laughs the Scots born coach, "it just doesn't sound right, does it?

"But you never know, he is a Pom after all!"

Wade's outstanding contribution to sport at an international level will come to a grinding halt once our last World Cup game is played – hopefully in America next year.

It would be appropriate in this year when Australian soccer has achieved so much if the ASF endorsed a proposal for the likeable Melbourne to receive official recognition for his contribution.

But maybe Thommo is right – Sir Paul, that's just a bit too much



Snoopy v the Red Baron

Ned's Army – they'll just have to wait

Ned Zelic is one player who sees his after-playing career in Australia.

"Yes, definitely," says the brilliant Aussie.

"I'd like to end my professional career in Europe and then come back to play in Australia, probably for a season or two, so that I could wind down.

"There is just so much pressure in Europe that it would be great to come back and slip into the old three nights a week training routine!

"After that I would really like to take up a career in the media."

Zelic doesn't see himself slotting into the role of soccer journalist, but rather a TV roving reporter.

"That's exactly what I want," says Zelic.

"I'd like to do interviews with all the famous sports stars and people."

The Borussia Dortmund player also rules out the possibilities of a coaching career – either in Australia or abroad.

"No, if I'm honest I would have to admit that there is no way that I want to take up coaching."

So the good news for

Zelic's army of female admirers is that they might yet have a chance of seeing the 'Spunker oo' on the box regularly. But, the bad news is that

they have another nine years to wait, as Ned Zelic sees his playing career continuing until he's 30 or 31.

For Aussie Soccer fans that is good news – that means another two World Cup campaigns from one of the most likeable players in the game.

It was a case of the genius admiring the genius, the soccer duel of Snoopy v the Red Baron.

This time, though, Snoopy was Maradona and he was almost totally outshadowed by Paul Wade. The Red Baron, Robbie Slater, on the other hand ran rampant.



THE PRIZE: Robbie Slater

Slater was without question the man of the match in the first leg of the World Cup clash with Argentina.

His runs were dynamic, his passing superb and his back up play was inspirational.

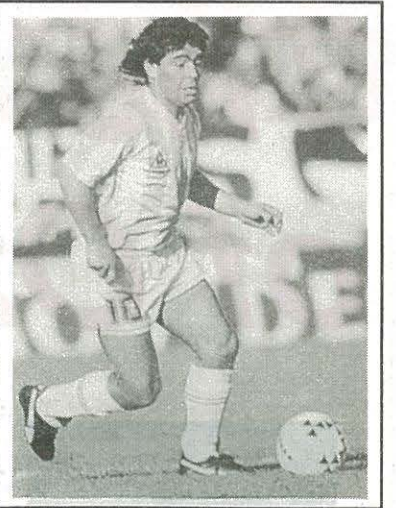
Maybe there was no official trophy awarded but the Red Baron has the greatest prize of all – Maradona's shirt.

Paul Wade might have expected to get the prized shirt of the man he stuck to like a stick of Uhu.

"I was surprised how easily Maradona was dispossessed," said Wade, who did more than his fair share of dis-possessing.

But Wade was also unstinting in his praise of the Argentine legend.

"Argentina without



Maradona is like Australian cricket without Alan Border – it is unthinkable."

Wade admitted to disappointment at not getting Maradona's shirt – before he new that team-mate Robbie Slater had been given the prize instead.

But in true dog fight fashion Slater emerged not only wearing the blue and white stripe but Maradona's tracksuit also!

That was his prize for being the greatest player on a field where the combined talent value was in excess of \$80 million.

Ironically Slater has never been transferred for anywhere even near that magic \$1 million mark – although his current club, Racing Lens, value him at \$5



SHIRTLESS: Paul Wade

million. In light of the Red Baron's showing at the Sydney Football Stadium that \$5 million looks a conservative estimate.

The Striker of Oz



Davie Mitchell has hit the headlines in recent weeks, first with his transfer back to England and then lately with the announcement of the

news that he has quit the international scene.

Simply Soccer takes a look at the player, his career and his contribution to the Socceroos

by
Bruce Campbell

Davie Mitchell is one of the most well known Aussie players in Europe. His travels have taken him to Ibrox Park, the home of the mighty Glasgow Rangers, and then on to Feyenoord, Eintracht Frankfurt, Chelsea, Swindon Town, Altay and now Millwall.

In 1981 he burst into international stardom with some superb displays in the World Youth Cup being played in Australia for the very first time.

The rave reviews that the

tall Scots born striker from Adelaide received prompted him to try his luck overseas, and where better than in the land of his birth.

So, Mitchell arrived at Ibrox virtually unheralded and his boots under his arm.

It was unheard of at the time, but Mitchell showed the same courage in seeking his footballing fortune as he has done in opposition penalty areas.

Recently Mitchell had the opportunity to turn the clock back and sign for Rangers once again, a possible move which caused him a lot of serious soul searching.

"Rangers offered me a

short term contract," said Mitchell.

"I spoke with their manager, Walter Smith, and he explained the injury situation at the club and offered me a three month contract.

"Walter said that the situation would be renewed after three months.

"Celtic also made me an offer, and that was for a longer

term.

At Rangers Mitchell would have been filling in for Ally McCoist who began his long comeback trail to full fitness with the winning goal in the recent Scottish League Cup final against Hibernian.

"Yes, that would have been likely, and also Mark Hateley is playing just now with a bit of a back injury."

It is old news now that Davie Mitchell's move to Turkish club Altay was something far short of a Turkish Delight, but even that had its pluses.

"I was disappointed that things didn't work out at Swindon but it was a big financial boost to move to Turkey, and at this time of my career I had to think of my financial security.

And Millwall?

"Yes, I'm happy with the move. I'm just thankful that everything has worked out after my experience in Turkey."

Again Davie Mitchell has hit the headlines – this time with his decision to retire from international football.



I believe that the big fellow got the short end of the stick in the game against Argentina and that he has every right to feel annoyed.

For reasons that are outlined elsewhere in this article I also believe that Mitchell is badly needed by Australia.

Hopefully, coach Eddie Thomson will sort the problem out and get the big man back where he belongs – on the park.

But whatever, don't be surprised if Mitchell's career takes another turn in the future, and this time he could be moving back to Australia, with a possible link up with his old club, Adelaide City.

At the end of this season City coach Zoran Matic will step down – and that will add considerable fuel to the

speculation that Big Mitch is on his way back as player coach of the Zebras.

When asked if a coaching job in Australia was a possibility, Mitchell was conservative in his reply.

"You never know that could be in the pipeline," Mitchell said.

The twinkle in his eye gave a distinct hint that he has been having talks with Adelaide City along those lines.

And before he flew back to England to link up with his club Millwall, Davie Mitchell is believed to have stopped off in Adelaide

But while Aussie fans would love to see Mitch back home playing in the CCSL the Striker of Oz still has a Socceroo role to fill – hopefully against Argentina

the Mitchell File

Born: 13.6.62, Scotland.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Full International Appearances

1981:

v Taiwan (3-2) – Adelaide, WC.

v Fiji (4-1) – Suva, WC.

v Fiji (10-0) – Melbourne, WC.

Scored 3 goals.

v Indonesia (0-1) – Suribaya, WC.

v Taiwan (0-0) – Taipei, WC.

1982:

v Indonesia (2-0) – Singapore. Scored 2 goals.

v Malaysia (5-0) – Singapore. Scored 1 goal.

v South Korea (3-2) – Singapore. Scored 1 goal.

1983:

v New Zealand (1-2) – Auckland.

v New Zealand (0-2) – Auckland.

v England (0-1) – Brisbane.

v England (1-1) – Melbourne.

1985:

v New Zealand (0-0) – Auckland, WC.

v China (3-0) – Brisbane, WC.

v Israel (2-1) – Tel Aviv, WC. Scored 1 goal.

v Israel (1-1) – Melbourne, WC.

v Taiwan (7-0) – Adelaide, WC. Scored 3 goals.

v New Zealand (2-0) – Sydney, WC. Scored 1 goal.

v Scotland (0-2) – Glasgow, WC.

v Scotland (0-0) – Melbourne, WC.

1988:

v Israel (0-0) – Christchurch.

v New Zealand (1-1) – Wellington.

v Yugoslavia (1-0) – Seoul, OG.

v Brazil (0-3) – Seoul, OG. Sent Off.

v Nigeria (1-0) – Seoul, OG.

v USSR (0-3) – Seoul, OG Quarter Finals.

1989:

v Israel (1-1) – Sydney, WC.

1993:

v Canada (2-1) – Sydney, WC.

v Argentina (1-1) – Sydney, WC.

Total Appearances: 29

Goals Scored: 12

Sent Off: 1

World Cup campaigns: 4

Olympic Games: 1

Games Played In:

won 13

drawn 9

lost 7

Mitchell's success rate at international level is staggering – of the 7 games that he played on a losing Australian side it should be recognised that one of them was away to Scotland (in the World Cup), one to England and one to Russia in the Quarter Finals of the Olympic Games.

The Mitchell Factor

There is little doubt that the 1-1 draw with Argentina in Sydney was a great result for Australian football, but an even better result was the way that the side played. Intelligent, constructive football which, for long periods of the game, had the twice world champions in all sorts of trouble.

It might be surprising, therefore, to find someone prepared to say that Thomson bungled in his tactics, but that, I believe, is exactly what he did – in my opinion

In the first half the Argentinians were constantly on the back pedal. This was caused by the speed with which the ball was played out of Australia's defence. One, two, seldom ever three, passes were finished off by a long ball to the feet of either Slater, Arnold or Aurelio Vidmar. Typical of this interchange was Australia's goal where Zelic picked up a loose ball, chipped a precision twenty metre pass diagonally over to Tony Vidmar who controlled it before putting it at the feet of Aurelio Vidmar who tapped the ball home. But the Argentinians sussed the Aussie tactics out at the interval, and in the second half they began to take more control of the game. At this time, I believe, Thomson should have brought on Mitchell.

Arnold had been very effective in his secondary role of linking with the likes of Slater and Vidmar but had failed in his primary role – getting shots on target. By bringing on the second striker Thomson would have been able to use another ploy which, so far, had not been introduced into the game – aerial attack. This was the very thing that concerned Argentina most before the game. Mitchell's use as a 'target man' would have allowed Arnold to feed off the loose balls which would have resulted from Mitch's 'knock down' style of play.

But, Thomson hesitated, and after the game conceded that he might have brought the Millwall player on a bit earlier. Had he done so, Australia may well have been facing up in the second leg at Beunos Aires with a slender, but precious, lead. One other point to consider when discussing Mitchell's style of play is the advantage that having a target player gives leg weary defenders. Instead of stringing together a succession of build-up passes, a long ball is pumped down field turning defence into attack in seconds – and saving legs.

Mitchell v Argentina, an analysed account of his contribution;

71 mins; comes on as a substitute, replacing the tiring Tony Vidmar (striker for midfielder)
72 mins; Tobin long ball too low for Mitchell, easily cleared by McAllister
72 mins; Durakovic long ball, cleared
73 mins; Van Blerk long ball into air – Mitchell wins header, and foul while doing so
74 mins; Mitchell commits late tackle on Vasquez – receives Yellow Card. Play held up for 90 seconds. Long period of Argentinian domination follows.



THOMMO: did he leave his sub too late?

81 mins; Slater crosses from the right wing for Mitchell – but five yards too far in front
82 mins; Mitchell beats McAllister in a loose aerial duel. Gets free kick for foul.
82 mins; Arnold sends through ball but on Mitchell's blind side.
82 mins; Mitchell races back to tackle
83 mins; another long ball drops 10 yards short, Mitchell chases back to pressure
85 mins; Bosnich puts long clearance brilliantly to Mitchell who heads on for Arnold. One of the best attacking moves of the second half.
86mins; Vidmar slips ball to Mitchell – five yards too far
88 mins; long ball – well beaten in air
89 mins; Slater sends brilliant cross into six yard box, Mitchell fails to connect.
90 mins; breakaway involving Mitchell
91 mins; won through ball
92 mins; Slater cross to Mitchell, pressure wins corner
93 mins; won header on edge of box – foul given against Mitchell



YOUNG SOCCEROOS: Aussie coach Les Scheinflug is confident of continuing success at Youth level

Youth success – no accident

Australia's participation in last year's Venezuelan International Youth Tournament was almost by "accident" according to team boss Les Scheinflug.

But since then our stocks on the international soccer scene have soared.

"I don't think it will be too long before we can convert that success in youth tournaments into success at a senior level," says Scheinflug.

"Venezuela really was a mini World Cup, and our boys just have to learn from playing all of these different national teams.

"I can also look forward to the time – and I don't think it will be very long either – when we will have full time soccer in Australia."

Scheinflug is one of the growing band of people who think that there are just too many teams in the CCSL at present.

"Yes, we have too many teams just now," comments Scheinflug.

"I think that soon we will have a league which consists of only eight or ten teams and then there will be full time professionalism.

"When that happens, we won't lose so many of our

good young players to Europe."

But while the overseas player drain continues Scheinflug is keeping tabs on all of his young stars, including one of his Class of

'91, Adem Poric.

"Poric is one player who has had to fight very hard for his place with Sheffield Wednesday.

"It took him a long, long time to get a club but now he has grabbed it and done very well.

"But I have kept an eye on Poric since he went away with Matthew Bingley after the World Youth Cup in Portugal in 1991.

"Poric's position in midfield is one which we can use very well."

Scheinflug's attention to detail is meticulous but he will be hoping that he can turn that attention to watching most of his players at home in the near future – in a fully professional Australian national league.



Darren Iocca STRIKING FOR A FUTURE

by
Mike Komadina

Darren Iocca is one the very talented young players at Marconi.

He burst onto the CCSL scene last season in whirlwind fashion, yet his progress has been carefully nurtured by coach, Frank Arok.

This year Iocca is one of a massive squad of 22 contracted Marconi players, and like the rest he is ready to do his part in a season which promises so much for the Bossley Park champions, yet which has started off so slowly.

"Marconi has got such a big squad that I just have to wait and see what happens," said Iocca.



"But if everything goes according to plan the I hope to be a regular member of the first team by Christmas."

Iocca was also a member of Australia's World Youth Cup campaign last March and that experience has obviously whetted his appetite for big-time football.

Like other young players he holds hope of a European career, and is likely to look at the professional scene at the end of this season.

"I'd like to play in Europe but I have to break into the Marconi side regularly first," says the young striker.

"I'll probably go over to Europe at the end of this season to trial out and then see what happens."

"I'm happy with my own form at Marconi – although I haven't been scoring the goals that I should have."

When The Whistle Blows

with
Alan Gordon

Something is very definitely sinking in with the Aussie sporting public – the fact that our round ball code is no longer what they sometimes still condescendingly refer to as 'wog ball'.

That was brought home to me the other night when an Aussie acquaintance – yes, I'm another one of the *Simply Soccer* Scots (and there are five of us altogether) – informed me, no, told me, that we were all wrong about this game.

"You know," he said, as if he was the only person to ever suss this particular gem out, "most of the players in the Australian team with woggy sounding names are actually Aussies, while the Aussie sounding players are all Poms."

With the impartation of that particular piece of wisdom he then set about giving me a lecture on how we are all Aussies anyway, and how offensive the use of the term 'wog' really is, and how great this game of soccer is, and just what his new-found sporting love is going to do to the other three footballing codes over the next couple of years.

Well, that was me certainly told!

Despite the fact that it was exactly what I have been saying for the last few years – now the public are saying it.

But for the record he isn't quite right; Graham Arnold is an Aussie while Davie Mitchell is one of the tartan horde. Robbie Slater might qualify for being an Aussie too on account of his only being six months old when he was brought here by his parents.

And the others, just ask them what nationality they are!

But that intermixing of different nationalities, and the playing styles that go with it, is maybe one of the strong points of Australian soccer.

Rather than being any weakness, I believe that Australian soccer has got the best out of all the styles; the strength of the English game; the speed of the Scottish; the passing of the Germans and Dutch; the build up from behind of the Italians; the ball play of the South Americans; and, not least, the technical wizardry of the Croatian and Serbian coaches.

That pot pourri of soccer skills will see the continued development of what will come to be known as the Aussie style. Already we are seeing it in practice, most noticeably with the Olyroos and the Socceroos.

I would like to think that, eventually, it will help to propel our football to higher plateaus – time will tell.

Ante Milicic is unquestionably a player with a huge future.

At one stage during the winter the Sydney United youngster looked set to fulfil that future alongside former United player Ned Zelic at Borussia Dortmund but, instead, Milicic opted for another season with the Crows.

During the World Youth Championship Milicic's with Paul Agostino was one of the real bright spots of the tournament and judging by the way he has grabbed his early season chances so far, he is set to light up the CCSL as well.

"Obviously there are big differences between the World Youth Cup and the CCSL," says Milicic.

"The CCSL is hard in its own way."

"Some of the other players are a lot older than me and their greater experience shows now and then."

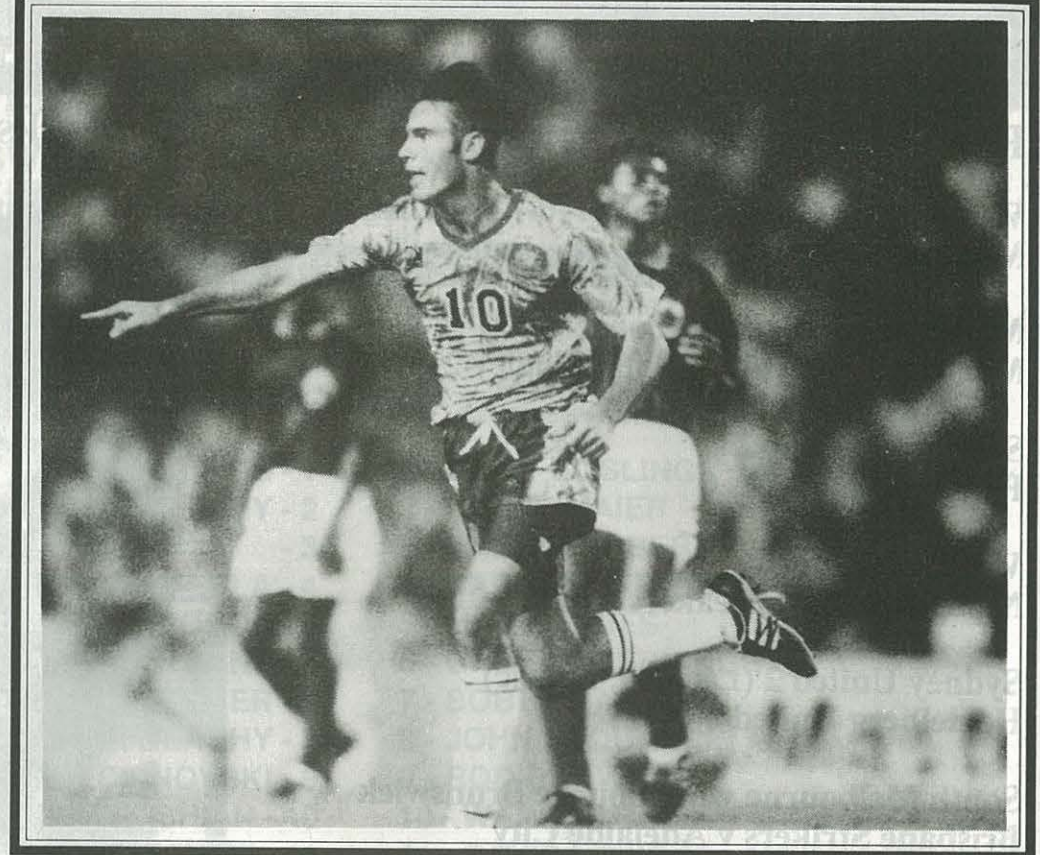
"On the other hand the players in the World Youth Cup were my own age although there were different styles to combat – the South Americans, the Europeans and the Africans."

In the opening round match against South Melbourne it was the introduction of Milicic as a second half substitute which actually swung the game in Sydney United's favour – a factor which has not gone unnoticed at Edensor Park.

Again at Marconi Milicic's play was rewarded with his name on the scoresheet and it seems that he is set to fulfil at least some of his huge potential, a potential which many see as being materialised for Australia at a senior level in the not too distant future.

"The team has got off to a great start and the whole team is pleased," says the well spoken Milicic.

"I really enjoy playing with this club, we have got some good players here and have a good mix of young and experienced players."



Harmony is the key for United's young star

"I've played with Ante Moric just about all my life and I have a good understanding with him."

"Tony Popovic is a good captain and even although he is very young he is leading by example."

"Kalac is a good keeper, and we all feel very confident with him playing in goals."

"We all get along really well with each other and I just hope that we keep on getting the results."

"I'm quite pleased with my own current form although there is still room for

improvement and hopefully that will come over the next few weeks."

"Obviously I'd really like to cement my own place in the United side."

"There is a lot of potential in the team and we can go a long way."

"The semi finals certainly aren't out of our reach and from there anything can happen."

But it looks almost odds on that Milicic will end up in Europe.

Strikers of his ability are in hot demand but the United

youngster seems to be in control of his own destiny.

"I would like to play in Europe, that is definitely where the future is in the long term."

Meanwhile, in the short term, Ante Milicic is delighted to play for Sydney United in the CCSL – with his name already pencilled into the reckoning for a place in the Olyroos' squad.

And after that, well who knows, but don't be surprised to see him emerge as a possible candidate for the next World Cup campaign.

ROUND 3

The Marksmen

Wollongong City Wolves 0
Morwell Falcons 2 (Markovski, Bothwell)

Melbourne Knights 2 (Pondeljak 2)
Marconi Fairfield 3 (Smith, Bingley 2)

Sydney Olympic 2
Parramatta Eagles 0

West Adelaide 0
Newcastle BHP Breakers 0

Sydney United 2 (Lamond, Milicic)
Heidelberg United 0

South Melbourne v Melbourne Brunswick
Brisbane Strikers v Adelaide City
postponed due to players involved in national team commitments



3 Kelic (Sydney Olympic) - pictured
3 Milicic (Sydney United)
3 Spink (Newcastle)
2 Bingley (Marconi)
2 Blair (West Adelaide)
2 Lamond (Sydney United)
2 Ollerenshaw (Wollongong)
2 McFadden (Wollongong Wolves)
2 Markovski (Morwell Falcons)
2 Obradovic (Heidelberg United)
2 Pondeljak (Melbourne Knights)
1 Bothwell (Morwell Falcons)
1 Cerro (West Adelaide)
1 Corica (Marconi-Fairfield)
1 Gibson (Sydney United)
1 Gomez (Parramatta Eagles)
1 Harper (Marconi)
1 Ironside (Sydney Olympic)
1 Lazaridis (West Adelaide)
1 Lees, Andrew (Brisbane Strikers)
1 Lowe (Newcastle)
1 Marth (Melbourne Knights)
1 Milosevic (Sydney Olympic)
1 Smith (Marconi)
1 Soper (Parramatta Eagles)
1 Taliadoros (Marconi)
1 Trajanovski (Sydney Olympic)
1 Vatsilas (West Adelaide)
1 Viduka (Melbourne Knights)



Coca-Cola Soccer League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney United	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Sydney Olympic	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
West Adelaide	2	1	1	0	5	0	4
Wollongong City	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Melbourne Knights	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Morwell Falcons	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Marconi-Fairfield	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Newcastle BHP	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Brisbane Strikers	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Parramatta Eagles	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Heidelberg United	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Melbourne Brunswick	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
South Melbourne	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Adelaide City*	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

* starred club is lowest placed Regional team, which is subject to relegation at the end of the season

Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 5

BRUNSWICK MELBOURNE v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Western Oval, Melbourne - Saturday November 14, 1993



FIRST GRADE 5.45 pm.

TEAM COLOURS
BLACK & WHITE SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
WHITE SOCKS
COACH : JOHN MARGARITIS

TEAM COLOURS
SKY BLUE SHIRT
SKY BLUE SHORTS
BLUE SOCKS
COACH : JIM FOLEY



JIM KOURTIS - 1	1 - CLINT GOSLING
STEPHEN MARLEY - 2	2 - RALPH MAIER
- 3	3 - ANDRW ROBERTS
ROBERT FERLA - 4	4 - DARREN STEWART
PAUL DELLA ROCCA - 5	5 - MARK JONES
SEAN LANE - 6	6 - GRAHAM JENNINGS
JOHN PILLEMER - 7	7 - BOBBY NAUMOV
ARCHIE McGEACHY - 8	8 - JOHN McQUARRIE
SASH BECVINOVSKI - 9	9 - ROD BROWN
ARTUOR KIRISHIAN - 10	10 - WARREN SPINK
ANDREW ZINNI - 11	11 - DAVID LOWE
SEB EMMANUELLE - 12	12 - NEIL OWENS
ANTHONY BUDINI - 13	13 - SCOTT WELLS
GEORGE KARKALETIS - 14	14 - HOWARD TREDINNICK
ROBERT TOMBOLATO - 15	15 - TROY HALPIN
RINO MINICHELLO - 16	16 - NICK MEREDITH
STEVE SMITH - 17	17 -
MICHAEL MAZZINI - 18	18 -
PAUL DONNELLY - 19	19 -
ROBERT MANZELLA - 20	20 -



MELBOURNE BRUNSWICK V NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)
CCSL CAREER RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Melbourne Brunswick HOME RECORD:	61	32	14	15	93	65
Newcastle Breakers AWAY RECORD:	28	8	8	12	33	40

* Due to midweek matches, some stats cannot be supplied.



HEAD TO HEAD: Played 0 times.

FORM GUIDE: The first time these two teams have faced one another in the Coca-Cola Soccer League and Brunswick's first game at new home ground Western Oval.

LAST GAMES: Brunswick had a weeks break due to South Melbourne having players committed to the Socceroos. Started off the season with a disastrous 5-0 drubbing against West Adelaide, however lifted considerable to force a 1-1 draw with Wollongong City in Round 2. Have a very tough midweek game against top of the table Sydney United. Newcastle have opened with a win, a draw and a loss and are steadily improving with each game. Coach Jim Foley was very pleased with his side after their 0-0 draw against West Adelaide and said even with a bit of luck could have come away with a win. The Breakers have the week off with their midweek game postponed.

SCENARIO: With the luxury of no midweek game, Newcastle will travel to Melbourne relatively confident they can secure full points. Warren Spink is in form early and has three goals in as many games so will be a handful for Brunswick defenders. With two home games in four days, Brunswick will want to secure at least one win. So if they don't get points on Wednesday, Newcastle had better beware of the bounded tiger.



COCA - COLA MATCH OF THE WEEK

SYDNEY UNITED v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



Croatian Sports Centre, Sydney - Sunday November 14, 1993 - 6.30 pm.

SYDNEY UNITED v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
GAME STATISTICS
(premiership matches only)
CCSL CAREER RECORD
Sydney United HOME RECORD: 129 63 31 35 201 151
Melbourne Knights AWAY RECORD: 126 48 34 44 169 182
* Due to midweek fixtures, some stats are unavailable.
HEAD TO HEAD: Played 14, Sydney United 4, Melbourne Knights 6, Drawn 4
FORM GUIDE: Long distance traditional rivals who like nothing better than to beat each other. Clashes are generally tough and close and Sunday promises to be no different with both teams showing good early season form.
LAST GAMES: Sydney United top of the table and deserve to be there. Have beaten two of the three early season favourites. Reached final of League Cup, losing to Parramatta, but where the Eagles have gone off the boil, the young United side are prov-

ZELJKO KALAC - 1
ROBERT STANTON - 2
VELIMIR KUPRESAK - 3
TONY POPOVIC - 4
MARK BABIC - 5
TOM MILICEVIC - 6
IVAN PETKOVIC - 7
TONY KRSLOVIC - 8
ERIC HRISTODOULOU - 9
JOHN GIBSON - 10
DAVID ZDRILIC - 11
ANTE MORIC - 12
KLAUSE OKON - 13
MARIO JERMEN - 14
ANTE MILICIC - 15
MANIS LAMOND - 16
ANTE ZIZIC - 17
MATTHEW ZEC - 18
MIRKO JURILJ - 19
TONY FRANKEN - 20

RESULT
SCORERS

1 - DAVID MILLER
2 - VINKO BULJUBASIC
3 - FAUSTO DI AMICIS
4 - MARK TALAJIC
5 - STEVE HORVAT
6 - ANDREW MARTH
7 - MARK SILIC
8 - JOSIP BISKIC
9 - OLIVER PONDELJAK
10 - ZORAN TRAJCEVSKI
11 - ADRIAN CERVINSKI
12 - VAUGHEN COVENEY
13 - DAVID CERVINSKI
14 - ANTE JURIC
15 - DAMIEN VOJTEK
16 - KRUNOSLAV RAZOV
17 - DAMIR GRGANOVIC
18 -
19 -
20 - FRANK JURIC

ing all the knockers wrong with their encouraging form. Have provided supporters with some quality attacking play with Manis Lamond to the fore since his return from injury. Should win midweek against Brunswick but should not underestimate the newcomers. The Knights suffered their first loss, 3-2 to Marconi last weekend but up till then have shown they will be in contention throughout the year.
PREVIOUS RECORD: The Knights have travelled well in recent years, for the last 5 years and winning the last 3 games.
SCENARIO: United coach Manfred Schaefer will emphasis to his players that a good start will put them one up on all the opposition and this alone will spur on his players. In form Lamond will have to be closely watched otherwise he will create a lot of damage. Knights will rely on persistence rather than flashy play in the end, I don't think that will be enough.



TEAM COLOURS
RED SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
BLUE SOCKS
COACH : MANFRED SCHAEFER

TEAM COLOURS
RED SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
BLUE SOCKS
COACH : MIRKO BAZIC



Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 5

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v MARCONI - FAIRFIELD

Leichhardt Oval, Sydney - Sunday November 14, 1993



FIRST GRADE 6.30pm.

TEAM COLOURS
BLUE SHIRT
BLUE SHORTS
BLUE SOCKS
COACH : BERTI MARIANI

TEAM COLOURS
GREEN SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
RED SOCKS
COACH : FRANK AROK



MIKE GIBSON - 1	1 - MARK SCHWARZER
DAVID BARRETT - 2	2 - GEORGE JOLEVSKI
ELIAS AUGERINOS - 3	3 - J. PAUL DE MARIGNY
TONY SPYRIDAKOS - 4	4 - MATTHEW BINGLEY
ROBERT IRONSIDE - 5	5 - IAN GRAY
BRAD MALONEY - 6	6 - GLAGOJA KULESKI
JOE CALETA - 7	7 - ANDREA ICARDI
BRANKO MILOSEVIC - 8	8 - ERMANNO PELUCCHI
IVAN KELIC - 9	9 - KIMON TALIADOROS
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI - 10	10 - STEVE CORICA
PETER TSEKENIS - 11	11 - ANDREW HARPER
NORMAN TOME - 12	12 - MICHAEL SMITH
GEORGE SORRAS - 13	13 - UFUK TALAY
PABLO CARDOZO - 14	14 - GARY VAN EGMOND
GRANT LEE - 15	15 - LUKE CASSERLY
EVANGELOS PETRATOS - 16	16 - FABIO MACOLINO
JOSE MENDEZ - 17	17 - JONATHAN ANGELUCCI
- 18	18 - TOM MCCULLOCH
- 19	19 - DARREN IOCCA
GARY MEIER - 20	20 - TONY PEZZANO



SYDNEY OLYMPIC v MARCONI
GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)
CCSL CAREER RECORD

P W D L F A

Sydney Olympic HOME RECORD: 213 95 61 57 310 224
Marconi-Fairfield AWAY RECORD: 224 95 51 78 363 288



* Due to midweek matches, some stats cannot be supplied.

HEAD TO HEAD: Played 33, Sydney Olympic 10, Marconi 8, Drawn 15

FORM GUIDE: Is usually one of the games that both set of supporters look forward to in any season. Have been traditional rivals since the National Leagues inception in 1977.

LAST GAMES: Sydney Olympic after a quiet pre-season as far as on-field activities go have started the premiership season on a good note with two wins out of three. Olympic's move to Leichhardt Oval has proved a good one so far winning both home games to date including last weekends 2-0 victory over Parramatta Eagles. Their only loss was a narrow one in Newcastle and they also don't have to play midweek which could be a bonus. Marconi finally got onto the winners circle with a 3-2 win over Melbourne Knights after some very scratchy performances in the opening two games. Have a midweek clash with Brisbane in Sydney and should provide the perfect hitout for Sundays clash.

PREVIOUS RECORD: Honours virtually even over the years. Olympic scored a 2-0 win in corresponding match last season, with the previous six games all ending up in draws.

SCENARIO: Wide open spaces of Leichhardt Oval will suit Marconi's style of play but Olympic have settled in well there and are only going to get better. Marconi's midweek game could have a bearing on this one but regardless will be as close as always.

Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 5

WEST ADELAIDE v PARRAMATTA EAGLES

Hindmarsh Stadium - Sunday November 14, 1993



FIRST GRADE 7.30 pm.

TEAM COLOURS
BLUE SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
BLUE SOCKS
COACH : RAUL BLANCO

TEAM COLOURS
WHITE SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
WHITE SOCKS
COACH : RALE RASIC



PETER BLAZINCIC - 1	1 - PETER GUNNING
JIM KERAMIDAS - 2	2 - ADAM CIANTAR
FRANK TIBALDI - 3	3 - GLEN GWYNNE
GREG MILLS - 4	4 - GERRY GOMEZ
ROBERT HOOKER - 5	5 - JOHN KOCH
CON KOKKINOPLITIS - 6	6 - NICK ORLIC
RAYMOND BLAIR - 7	7 - CRAIG MOFFITT
GUSTAV CERRO - 8	8 - GABRIEL MENDEZ
GEORGE SLIFKAS - 9	9 - MARSHALL SOPER
MARK BRAZZALE - 10	10 - JOE SPITERI
GREG BROWN - 11	11 - GEOFF GUNNING
JIM TSEKINIS - 12	12 - GLENN SPROD
BRETT PULLEN - 13	13 - WALTER ARDONE
LEMMYVATSILAS - 14	14 - JASON FALZON
RICHIE ALAGICH - 15	15 - ZOKI ADIOSKI
JOSE IRIARTE - 16	16 - ANDREW DOWLING
- 17	17 - TOM HAYTHORNTHWAITE
- 18	18 - TONY JOSEVSKI
- 19	19 - BRENDAN RENAUD
TONY GIANNASCA - 20	20 - JASON HOLMES



WEST ADELAIDE v PARRAMATTA EAGLES
GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)
CCSL CAREER RECORD

West Adelaide HOME RECORD: 175 73 35 67 245 229
Parramatta Eagles AWAY RECORD: 68 17 26 25 74 95

* Due to midweek matches, some stats are unavailable



HEAD TO HEAD: Played 6, West Adelaide 3, Parramatta 1, Drawn 2

FORM GUIDE: Clash between last seasons semi-finalists who were both knocked out in the 1st phase. With the competition looking more open this year points are vital and it these clashes which can make or break teams, so expect a very fiercely fought game.

LAST GAMES: West Adelaide started the season off in a blaze of glory beating newcomers Melbourne Brunswick 5-0. Met an improved Newcastle team last weekend and were held to a 0-0 draw. Midweek fixture away to a confident Morwell Falcons buoyed by their 2-0 win at Wollongong. Parramatta have been unable to carry their League Cup form into the premiership, starting with two draws and then a 2-0 loss last weekend against a rejuvenated Sydney Olympic team.

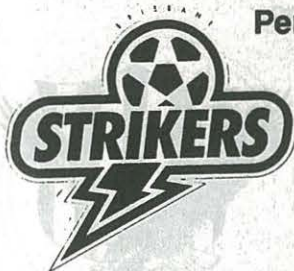
PREVIOUS RECORD: Have only met three times in Adelaide, with the local team yet to taste defeat at the hands of the Eagles. The Sharks have won the last two matches which indicates they have a decided edge over their opponents.

SCENARIO: Parramatta coach Rale Rasic must be wishing Socceroo Aytec Genc could sort his differences out with the Club, to give his midfield a much needed playmaker. West Adelaide have a well balanced side and can score goals, especially at home. Unless Parramatta show an improvement in their midweek game against Wollongong, I can't see them coming home with any points from this match.

Coca-Cola SOCCER LEAGUE - Round 5

BRISBANE STRIKERS v HEIDELBERG UNITED

Perry Park, Brisbane - Saturday November 13, 1993



FIRST GRADE 7 pm.

TEAM COLOURS
WHITE SHIRT
WHITE SHORTS
WHITE SOCKS

COACH : BRUCE STOWELL

CLINT BOLTON - 1
FRANK PIMBLETT - 2
ALUN EVANS - 3
ALAN HUNTER - 4
STEVE JACKSON - 5
DARREN HILLIER - 6
GARY PHILLIPS - 7
ANDREW STOWELL - 8
ANDREW LEES - 9
DANNY WRIGHT - 10
TROY CRANNEY - 11
CHRIS SLATER - 12
- 13
SEAN CRANNEY - 14
CRAIG WILLIAMS - 15
KEVIN MEACOCK - 16
BRADLEY DITTON - 17
STEIN GRODUM - 18
- 19
GRAHAM ROSS - 20

TEAM COLOURS
YELLOW SHIRT
BLACK SHORTS
YELLOW SOCKS

COACH : DRAGAN SEKULARAC

1 - MICHAEL CHATZITRIFONOS
2 - GARY BRATTAN
3 - ALAN SCOTT
4 - DOUG HODGSON
5 - JOE PALATSIDES
6 - GORAN NEGIC
7 - BRIAN MACNICOL
8 - PHILIP STUBBINS
9 - DANNY GNJIDIC
10 - MICHAEL MIHALAKOPOVLOS
11 - NEMAJA OBRADOVIC
12 - ROMAN NIKOLIC
13 - PETER TIKTIKAKIS
14 - GEORGE GEORGIADIS
15 - ANDREW VLAHOS
16 - MIKE PANOPOULOS
17 - TOM KARAPATSOS
18 -
19 -
20 - CON KARANIKOLOS



BRISBANE STRIKERS V HEIDELBERG UNITED

GAME STATISTICS (premiership matches only)
CCSL CAREER RECORD

P W D L F A

Brisbane Strikers HOME RECORD: 27 11 7 9 48 45

Heidelberg United AWAY RECORD: 198 51 64 83 230 294

* Due too midweek matches, some stats cannot be supplied.

HEAD TO HEAD: Played 4, Brisbane 1, Heidelberg 2, Draw 1

FORM GUIDE: LAST GAMES - Brisbane started the season off with two draws and the signs were there that they would not be near the bottom of the table this season. Had a weeks rest last weekend and face a tough away game to Marconi on Wednesday.

Heidelberg were outplayed by Sydney United eventually losing 2-0. It could have been a different story however, if a first half penalty had been converted and it is chances like those that the Bergers will have to make sure they score if they are going to get results. Their midweek fixture against the Melbourne Knights will be a tough game who lost to Marconi at Home.

PREVIOUS RECORD: Have only played twice against each other in Brisbane, with the locals winning the first and a draw result last year.

SCENARIO: Brisbane's only home game to date was a 1-1 draw with League Cup winners Parramatta Eagles and by all account should have had all three points. It will be Heidelberg's second lot of travel within a week and this could be a big disadvantage to them. Brisbane's solid home record should get them the points in this one.



YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

NORTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 3 - WEEK ENDING 7 NOVEMBER, 1993

QUEENSLAND ACADEMY 0 V SYDNEY OLYMPIC COLTS 1 Car-do

MARCONI ACADEMY 3 Harris (2), Bozevski V NEWCASTLE BHP 1 Wilson

PARRAMATTA COLTS 1 Warburton V MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 Lee, Petratos V PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2 Dudman, Sprod

SYDNEY UNITED V A.I.S. - Postponed

WOLLONGONG CITY & A.C.T. ACADEMY - BYE

SOUTHERN DIVISION
SPRINGVALE CITY 1 Grella V SUNSHINE G.C. 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE V MELBOURNE BUSC - POSTPONED
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0 V V.I.S. 2 Lazarevski, Tricarico

BULLEEN V DONCASTER ROVERS - POSTPONED
PRESTON 0 V ALTONA GATE 1 Atanasovski

ALBION 1 Maglovski V MORWELL FALCONS 4 Koppen (3), Stergiopoulos

NORTH GEELONG 0 V HEIDELBERG UNITED 3 Curcija, Panopoulos, Vlahos

NEXT WEEK'S DRAW

ROUND 6

Friday 19 November, 1993

NEWCASTLE B.H.P V SYDNEY UNITED (Mitre 10 Stadium 7.30pm)

Saturday 20 November, 1993

MORWELL FALCONS V MELBOURNE BUSC (Morwell Falcon Park 7.00pm)

MARCONI FAIRFIELD V WOLLONGONG CITY (Marconi Stadium 7.30pm)

Sunday 21 November, 1993

HEIDELBERG UNITED V SYDNEY OLYMPIC (Olympic Village 5.45pm)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V BRISBANE (Melbourne Croatian Sports Centre 5.45pm)

PARRAMATTA EAGLES V SOUTH

MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE CITY V WEST ADELAIDE - Postponed due to Socceroo commitments.

This Weekend's YOUTH LEAGUE Round 5

YOUTH LEAGUE (NORTHERN DIVISION)

Friday 12 November, 1993

WOLLONGONG CITY V SYDNEY OLYMPIC COLTS (Brandon Park 5.30pm)

Saturday 13 November, 1993

Q.A.S. V A.I.S. (Perry Park 5.00pm)

MARCONI ACADEMY V PARRAMATTA EAGLES (Marconi Stadium 5.30pm)

Sunday 14 November, 1993

SYDNEY OLYMPIC V MARCONI (Leichhardt Oval 4.30 pm)

SYDNEY UNITED V PARRAMATTA COLTS (Sydney Croatian S.C. 4.30pm)

ACT I.S. - BYE

NEWCASTLE B.H.P. - BYE

YOUTH LEAGUE (SOUTHERN DIVISION)

Saturday 13 November, 1993

SPRINGVALE CITY V V.I.S. (Waratah Reserve 4.00pm)

Sunday 14 November, 1993

SOUTH MELBOURNE V MORWELL FALCONS (Middle Park 3.45pm)

MELBOURNE BUSC V DONCASTER ROVERS (Western Oval 3.45pm)

PRESTON V HEIDELBERG UNITED (Connor Reserve 4.00pm)

ALBION V ALTONA GATE (Selwyn Park 4.00pm)

BULLEEN V SUNSHINE G.C. (Veneto Soc Club 4.00pm)

NORTH GEELONG V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS (Elcho Park 4.00pm)



TRIALS

FOR

GRANVILLE & DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (INC)

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE

ARE STILL IN PROGRESS

UNDER 13'S - MONDAY

UNDER 14'S - TUESDAY

UNDER 15'S - WEDNESDAY

UNDER 16'S - THURSDAY

at Rydalmere Park

Victoria Road, Rydalmere at 6.00 pm

Contact - John Comito 899 7657 (AH)

Helping to set the standard at West Adelaide

This weekend West Adelaide striker Greg Brown (pictured right) lines up against his old club, Parramatta Eagles, and the Socceroo will be determined to help preserve the Sharks unbeaten record against Parramatta since they returned to the CCSL two seasons ago.

Brown himself has had a much-travelled career since his junior days with Manchester United, perhaps the most famous club in the world.

Those travels took him to New Zealand where he actually played for the All Whites in B internationals before coming to Australia in 1989 to link up with Parramatta Eagles, then in the NSW State League.

Parramatta's promotion to the CCSL in 1991 propelled Brown onto a higher platform and enabled him to also pick up an international career - this time with Australia.

Coincidentally his debut in the Green and Gold was against New Zealand. Since then he has played a total of twelve times for Australia.

"I think West Adelaide has got a good team," said Brown, who had a starring role in the 5-0 romp against Melbourne Brunswick.

"You had to feel sorry for them - I know how hard it is to come out of the State League into the CCSL.

"We feel that West Adelaide is just as good, if not better, than last season. In that respect we want to do just as good, if not better, than we did then."

Greg Brown sees a bright future for the West Adelaide youngsters who are starting to break into the senior side, namely Tibaldi and Tsekinis and also sings the praises of

Raul To Stay?

The success of the recent international programmes involving all four Australian national teams has renewed calls for the appointment of a third full-time ASF coach.

One name which must be at the top of any ASF wanted list to fill that position when it does become vacant is that of

West Ad coach, Raul Blanco.

Blanco only recently resigned from the Sharks coaching position - but was persuaded to change his mind over a matter which is reported to have been a disagreement over club policy.

Blanco himself refuses to be drawn into speculation over the possible ASF position, although he has confirmed that he would be definitely interested if the post did become available.



Richard Alagich.

"Richie is looking really good. He was on the bench last season but I think you'll find that he plays more games this season."

The bustling striker is confident that the Sharks will make an impact again this season and lists them amongst the top three sides in the country.

That sentiment is sure to find a lot of support at Hindmarsh Stadium where coach Raul Blanco has built one of the most entertaining teams in Australia.

And Greg Brown is happy to see his own future in Adelaide, especially after clawing his way back to fitness after recent operations.

"I've had three operations - both ankles and a knee - so I must admit that I was a bit worried. But I've got over that now and feel about 95% fit."

The Sharks front man is also optimistic about the future of the League itself. Known as a strong thinker, Brown sees a definite future for a ten team CCSL.

"I think if a ten team league was introduced for the right reasons then it could be very successful.

"There are worries that the standard of the League is going down a bit and if we reduced the amount of teams then it would increase the standard of play."

Despite the possibility of Adelaide losing one of its two places in a ten team league Brown still sees the future in that reduction.

"You are never happy about the thought of your own club being relegated, but I don't think Adelaide would lose a place.

"The games between West and City draw huge crowds. Adelaide is a good soccer city and both clubs are very financial.

"But you have to set a higher standard and the clubs that don't reach that higher standard will miss out."

Jimmy O'Rourke

Return to CCSL is a 'dream' for Pumas skipper



by
Jimmy O'Rourke

When the then Brunswick Juventus were relegated from the CCSL at the end of the 1988 season it was the end of a dream for many soccer fanatics - including Scots born Steve Marley.

Tough tackling Marley was one of the bright Brunswick players around whom the club aimed to build its future until relegation brought a premature end to those hopes.

But a successful period in the Victorian Premier League (other than last season's horror spell) coupled with an ambitious off-field programme saw the club re-instated - this time as Melbourne Brunswick United.

Club president Maria Carmigniani secured licensed premises for the Melbourne club by buying out the old Brunswick RSL Club in a bold \$300,000+ purchase.

Other ambitious moves saw the signing of Cameron Richardson from Footscray Aussie Rules club to lead a new commercial drive.

That appointment had an



PUMA SKIPPER Steve Marley

arly season' impact with the announcement of a first ever soccer sponsorship from sporting giants Puma - not only giving the club a new nickname but some badly needed revenue as well.

"I'm delighted that the club got back into the CCSL," says Pumas skipper, Marley.

"For a long time when we were in the Premier League we were a better playing side than a lot of the CCSL clubs.

"But now we are back in the top league everybody is delighted."

Marley has had a taste at the top before, other than his previous CCSL experience.

That success came in Scotland when he made his first team debut for Hibernian against cross town rivals, Heart of Midlothian.

"That was just magic," says Marley who hopes to put some magic back into the famous black and white stripes of Melbourne Brunswick.

Happy Birthday

to all CCSL stars who celebrate their birthdays over the next week.

Cheers!

13th Manuel Pavlidis (Olympic)
16th Steve Waddle (South Melbourne)



Brisbane Strikers are carrying more than just the hopes of a club in the 1993/94 CCSL season – they are carrying the big time soccer dreams of the entire northern state.

The Strikers (playing last season as United) are the third Brisbane club to participate in the CCSL in its eighteen seasons of existence.

Before the Strikers gained promotion in 1991 Queensland had been represented by Brisbane Lions () and Brisbane City ().

Despite the high hopes of both those clubs, Brisbane has, so far, failed to really take a grip on the national league scene.

The only northern successes have been in the Cup – won by Brisbane City in 1977 and 1978 – but until this season that was a competition which was never really taken totally seriously by any of the big clubs.

The axis of power in the CCSL has stayed firmly between the three main soccer cities – Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

That will no doubt upset a few people in Brisbane but it must be remembered that every single championship has been one by one of the 'axis' clubs and the regional centres of Canberra, Newcastle, Wollongong, Morwell and Brisbane just haven't been able to produce the goods – yet.

But there are signs that that is beginning to change.

Brisbane looks to have finally got its act together.

Long time supporter Alf Williams takes up the cudgel.

"I really think that Bruce Stowell has got the makings of a good team," said Williams.

"The re-signing of Troy Cranney was perhaps Stowell's best achievement.

"Troy is so under-rated by most of the Australian soccer media but he really is a top class player.

"Also Stowell has given an opportunity for players like Clint Boulton, Andy Lees and Alun Evans..



Brisbane Strikers: Are they ready to shoot for the top?

STRIKERS READY TO TAKE ON AXIS POWERS

"I'm sure that some these, and the other young players at Perry Park, will go on to become names in soccer."

And despite the problems that Brisbane had to face up to off the field during the winter (who could call that glorious

Queensland sunshine winter – Ed!) the club pulled in a healthy crowd above last season's average gate for its first home game against Parramatta

Eagles.

That was a sign that the public are ready to get behind their team.

Cancellation of their Round 3 game against Adelaide City because of Socceroo commitments has kept the soccer public starved of a game – but their appetite has been stimulated by the Argentina coverage.

That bodes well for a good crowd in this weekend's clash

with Heidelberg United – a team which has never beaten the Strikers at home.

"Look out for young Lees," says Williams.

"He is a boy with a great future.

"If he gets a reasonable service against Heidelberg then he will do some real damage.

"And Clint Boulton is a young keeper with a big future.

Hughes Still Number One At Brandon Park

Wollongong City have reportedly knocked back the possible signing of Sydney United keeper Tony Franken.

Franken, 28, was in great form last season and was expected to line up this year as the club's number one choice.

However, the great early season form of Zeljko Kalac and a hip injury picked up during the League Cup has conspired to keep Franken out of the first team picture.

But at Brandon Park former Apia keeper Brett Hughes has been in excellent form at the back of one of the tightest defences in the league.

"There is no way we could sign anyone as a replacement for Hughes," said a club insider.

"I am sure that if Tony Franken, or anyone else for that



matter, wants to play for the Wolves then he will have to stand in line behind Brett Hughes."

Hughes was signed by Wollongong last season when on-loan keeper John Filan jetted out to England where he signed for Cambridge. Since then he has gone on to make the Wollongong number one shirt his own and has now clocked up a total of 64 CCSL appearances with Apia and Wollongong.

Newcastle Breakers has announced the signing of former player Troy Halpin.

Halpin played just three games last season for the Breakers before leaving to join Hamilton Olympic.

"Troy felt that he didn't have a future at the club with the previous administration," said Breakers coach Jim Foley, "but I'm pleased that I have been able to convince him that he does fit into our plans."

Halpin is a forward who Foley says "will add an extra dimension to our attack" although he is not expected to become an instant first team starter.

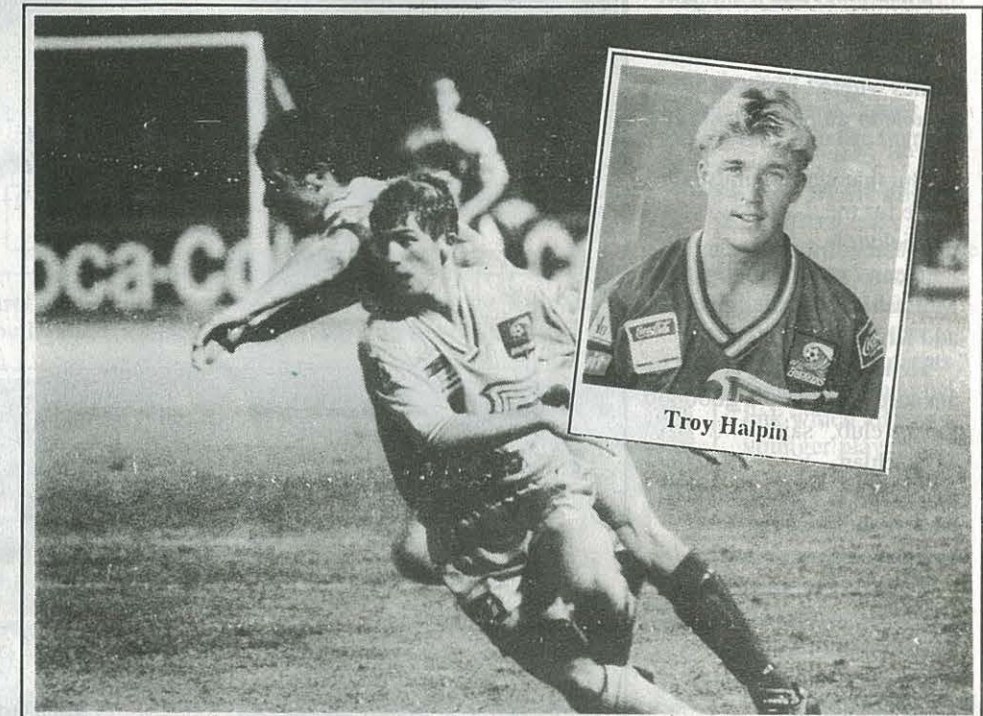
"For Halpin to become a first team regular he will first have to displace some very good and experienced players.

"But the player is realistic enough to know that he just won't walk into the team.

"It might even take all season but that isn't my main concern.

"Troy is a player for the future and I have been able to convince him that that future lies with Newcastle."

Halpin has made a total of 6 CCSL appearances for the Breakers.



Breakers Sign 'New Boy' Halpin

Falcons Sign Dutch International

Morwell Falcons have made another raid into the transfer market to sign midfielder Freddy Kruys from Wollongong City.

For Kruys, the 22-year-old former Dutch Youth International, it ends an unhappy spell at Brandon Park.

"Wolves signed me thinking that I was a winger, which I am not," said Kruys.

"I had played in a trial game for Wollongong against Vardar and had one of those games where I just seemed to be able to go past player after player.

"But that was an unusual game for me, I am a midfielder."

Falcons' coach Bobby McLachlan was delighted to add Kruys to his roster.

"He is a good player and I am sure he will do a good job for the club," said McLachlan.

"Freddy is a good passer of the ball and he helps to balance out our defence.

"We have got plenty of guys who can go in and win the ball and Freddy's distribution will be a big boost to the team."

Kruys played for Dutch club De Graafschap helping them to win promotion to the Premier Division.

After playing in the top league in Holland he moved to Belgium for a short time before coming to Australia on a sportsman's visa.

"Kruys will do a good job for us, he is a good distributor and will add balance to the back of our team" – Falcons' coach, Bobby McLachlan



DUTCH TREAT: Kruys starring for Brisbane Lions during the XXXX season

a sportsman's visa.

Originally Kruys was

intended for Brisbane Strikers and during the winter season played a starring role for Brisbane Lions, one of the Strikers sister clubs.

But the uncertainty surrounding the Strikers at the time unsettled Kruys who chose instead to sign for the Wolves.

"No-one really knew what was going on at Brisbane at the time," said Kruys.

"I felt that as an import I needed a bit more security, and that wasn't available in Brisbane."

But after playing for Wollongong in the two League Cup games against Parramatta Eagles, it became clear that the nippy Dutchman didn't fit into coach David Ratcliffe's plans.

"I just can't play wide, and that is where the club wanted me to play," said Kruys.

"I am delighted to sign for Morwell."

"They are such a professional club and the set up is absolutely first class.

"My only worry was coming down here for trials because I just hate flying.

"What made it worse was that the plane was a very small one and we went through a lot of turbulent weather – I was terrified. I thought it was all over!"

But now Kruys, who made his CCSL debut for Morwell on Wednesday in the re-arranged League game against West Adelaide, has the chance to show his skill in the Falcons colours.

Morwell beat two other clubs in the race to sign the Dutchman and expect to complete their senior roster in the next two weeks with the signing of another overseas player.

Kruys is managed by the Pro-Soccer Management group.

Last season was a huge disappointment for Melbourne Knights, and the club which has grown used to success had to be content with a miserable tenth league placing – a mammoth 24 points adrift from Premiers, South Melbourne.

And a disastrous first round exit in the Cup at the hands of relegated Preston only served to underline the problems at a club which had only missed out on three Finals Playoffs since it was first promoted to the CCSL in 1984.

Bad press created by the early season sacking of coach Kenny Murphy was highlighted by a fall off in home attendances – no doubt further fueled by the fact that the Knights lost as many games at home as they won.

But a good team doesn't suddenly go bad and new coach Mirko Bazic has the challenge of putting it right for the Knights.

Bazic is realistic about his side's prospects for the season but does not rule out the likelihood of another finals' appearance, and judging by early season form the Melbourne club has a good chance of reversing that poor fortune of last year.

If Bazic can steer the club into the playoffs in his first season then much of the credit will belong with those at the club who have

Knights banking on youth



ACTION: Biskic fighting for possession with South Melbourne's Paul Trimboli

carefully nurtured a strong youth policy.

This season the Knights have no fewer than 12

'Golden Oldie' Biskic guides youngsters as the Reds fightback for a playoff position

players listed in their first team squad who are aged 21 or younger, with a good proportion of those players being products of the club's junior development system.

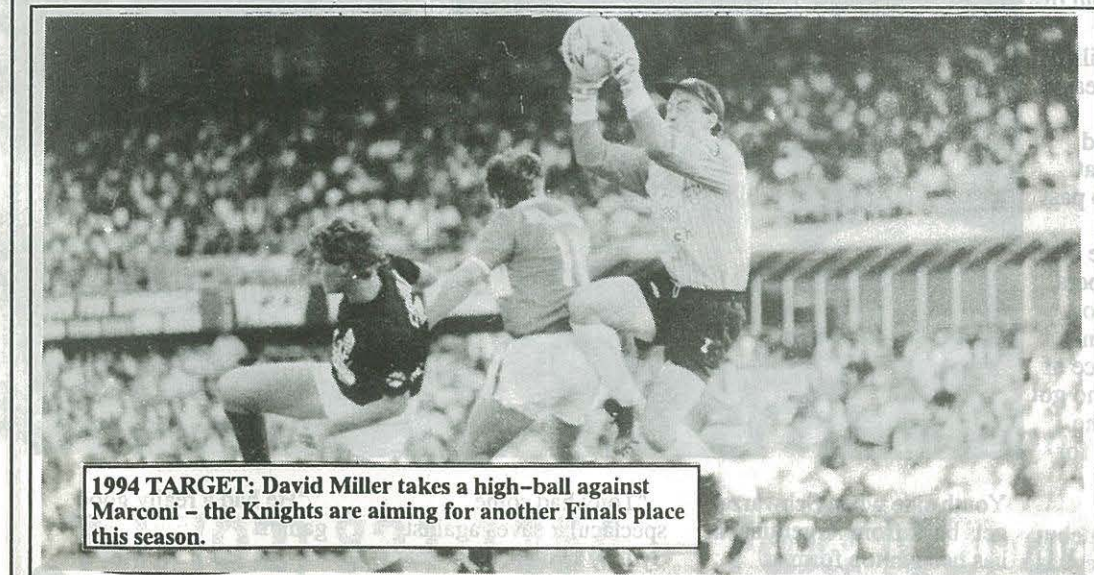
With the retirement of Theo Selemidis and the transfer of veteran George Hannah to Morwell falcons that leaves only Andrew Marth, Josip Biskic and Mark Talajic having played more than 100 games.

At 34 Josip Biskic might feel like a golden oldie but his steady influence on the field still has rival coaches showing their admiration.

Biskic is the key in the Melbourne Knights youth plan, the vital link which allows younger players to come into the first team picture with a steady influence on the park to guide them.

With teenage sensation Mark Viduka showing such brilliant form up front the Knights look set to end their last season blues and reclaim their rightful place – as one of the front-runners of the league.

John Glen



1994 TARGET: David Miller takes a high-ball against Marconi – the Knights are aiming for another Finals place this season.

What Is For You, Won't Go Past You

It seems that Tony Pezzano has been around for ever and while it might surprise most readers to find out that the much travelled keeper is still only 33, that is far from old when it comes to goalkeepers.

At the beginning of the season - Pezzano's eighteenth in the big time - it looked likely that the big man was ready to retire. "No way," exclaimed Pezzano.

"I'll be around for a long time yet." And just to prove how serious he was the former Aussie international shed any excess weight and got down to serious training.

That must have looked like a waste of time when he was forced to pick 12 balls out of the net as the Marconi Academy side was humiliated in the National Youth League by a brilliant AIS but Pezzano has been around long enough to know that what is for you won't go past you.

That cliché might have been penned just for goalkeepers, and in particular Pezzano.

Kept out of the Marconi first team by the brilliance of Mark Schwarzer, Pezzano got his chance again when the youngster was called up for national team duty.

Despite the fact that Pezzano, who made his debut for Sydney City when he was just 16, will step back into the

Marconi goalkeeper Tony Pezzano puts new life into an old cliché - and one that is particularly apt for keepers



Youth side when Schwarzer gets back from Argentina, he has been in top form as stand-in.

"Tony had some spectacular saves against Sydney United," says team-mate Andy Harper.

"He had a really good game."



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What Is Won't You

It seems that Tony has been around for a while it might surprise readers to find much travel only 33, though when it comes to goalking.

At the moment, he has been seen as only as good as his name - and I agree, his performance to the soccer shows he is a real beauty there.)

WHERE ARE THE GAMES?

I am bitterly disappointed at having to wait almost a month to see my club, South Melbourne in action. Surely the ASF could have come up with a better format for the early rounds of the CCSL, bearing in mind the commitments of the Adelaide City and South Melbourne players to the national team.

What would have happened if Ian Gray had been called up? That would have really thrown the programme into chaos with three clubs missing. And is it fair to expect part time clubs to play two games a week to catch up?

G Panopoulos
Werribee
Victoria

(I can't argue with you - I just don't know what that better format could be.)

THE SPITFIRE

You have got it right with your article

Parramatta Spitfire has all the makings of being named Rookie of the Year. I hope he can handle all the good press that he is getting because that has ruined too many good players in the past. But Parramatta looked to have unearthed a real beauty there.)

GIVE THEM A GO

How can you write off Brisbane Strikers so early in the season. 100/1 to make the Playoffs, you must be crazy. I'll have \$50 on that - just tell me where there is a bookie as stupid as you!

Striker
Redcliffe
Queensland

(And welcome to another astute member of the Banana Republic! Seriously, the fact is that those odds were framed before the season when things didn't look too bright for Brisbane. I am delighted to see a strong club in the Queensland capital to make it a truly national league. Bruce Stowell is a good coach who can do a good job for the Strikers with a limited budget. But if you really want to challenge for the big one then Stowell must be free to sign players with experience and ability. Brisbane are still short of players and I think when it comes

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around to about Round 20 you will see the league take toll on a basically raw squad.)

GREAT GIANNASCA

West Adelaide should be locked away for highway robbery. Time will prove me right that their signing of Tony Giannasca from Canberra is the steal of the season. Tony is a top young keeper and should go all the way in the CCSL. When he finally gets a first team run I am sure that he will fight hard to hold on to it. Good luck West Ad, you have the bargain of the decade.

A Jones
Manuka
ACT

(I have been singing Tony's praises for two years now - I am delighted that Raul Blanco has seen fit to give the lad a chance. The hard thing with a goalkeeper is that he often has to wait until the other man in possession makes a mistake before he gets his own chance. At West Adelaide Blazincic is in such good form that Tony might have to wait a while. But the tragedy is that Canberra keeps on losing players to the CCSL who could be doing a job with their own team - if it was accepted into the league. So far this season they have lost three - Villani and Galletti to Morwell, and of course, Giannasca to West Adelaide. I doubt that Canberra will be back in the CCSL in the near future.)



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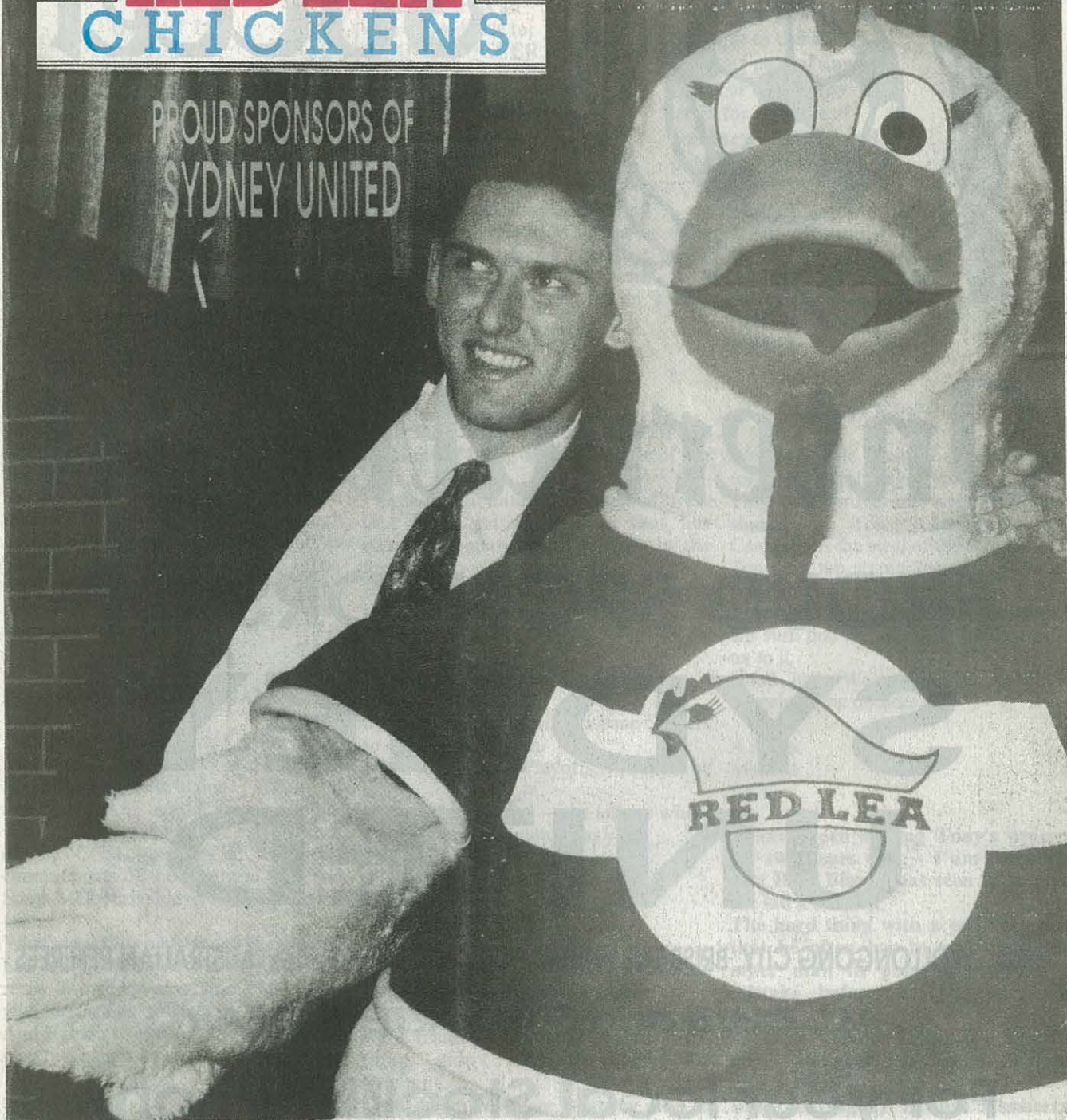
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